

# Burwood Boys' Home

1895 – c. 1972

**Other Names:** • Burwood Boys' Training Farm

## Details

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The Burwood Boys' Home was established in 1895 by Robert Campbell Edwards and run by non-denominational Committee of Management. The Home first housed boys aged between 9 and 15. Girls were accepted to the Home from the early 1970s, when the name changed to the Burwood Children's Home.

The Burwood Boys' Home, at 155 Warrigal Road, Burwood, was established in 1895. Its founder was Robert Campbell Edwards, an Irish-born tea merchant. It was operated by a non-denominational Committee of Management, and was incorporated in 1909.

An article about a visit to the Home in 1911 called it the Burwood Boys' Training Farm. It described how boys were "as far as possible, sent into the country, and their subsequent records are stated to be highly satisfactory" (*Weekly Times*, 9 December 1911).

Burwood Boys' Home was 'an approved institution' under the Children's Welfare Act 1928.

The Home was deregistered in 1936, and boys were transferred to Minton Boys' Home, while new buildings were being completed. It was re-registered in 1937/38.

In 1939 there were 37 boys in the home, and by 1940 the number had increased to 47 and the home was at full capacity. The 1940 Annual Report for the committee of the home states that the construction of a new block as well as extensions and additions to pre-existing buildings of the Burwood Boys' Home was started in this year in order to provide accommodation and facilities for an additional 25 boys. The 1940 report also provided some information regarding the activities of the boys in the preceding year. It stated that over the Christmas and New Year holidays the majority of the boys at the home were placed in private homes with families, and that others went away camping with a group of Rover Scouts. From 1940 boys at the home in grades 6 to 8 attended the Burwood State School in order to give them "more scope and competition."

Accommodation at Burwood Boys' Home changed to a 'cottage system' in the 1950s, in line with changing ideas about the care of children. In 1955, it applied to be recognised as an 'approved children's home' under the Children's Welfare Act 1954.

A hostel for boys who had completed schooling, The Palms in Hawthorn, was opened in 1940. This hostel was unpopular, however, and it was closed and sold in 1959. From 1972, older boys remained on the site of Burwood Boys' Home, in the purpose-built Kemp Lodge.

Girls were accepted to the Home from the early 1970s, when the name changed to the Burwood Children's Home.

The Home began to redirect its operations to the region around Shepparton in the late 1970s. It purchased houses in Shepparton in the early 1980s.

It became known as the Child and Family Care Network in the mid 1980s. The last child left the Burwood home in 1986. That year, the organisation sold the Burwood site and moved to new premises in Glen Waverley.

The organisation changed its operating name to bestchance Child Family Care in 2006.

## Gallery

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**Burwood Boys' Home**

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## More info

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### Chronology

- **Burwood Boys' Home (1895 – c. 1972)**
  - Burwood Children's Home (c. 1972 - c. 1986)
    - Child and Family Care Network (c. 1986 - c. 2006)
      - bestchance Child Family Care (2006 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [The Palms \(1948 - 1959\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Gordon Institute \(1886 - 1951\)](#)

During the years of World War Two, boys from the Gordon Institute were accommodated at the Burwood Boys' Home, as the Institute's building in Bowen Street, Melbourne, was taken over by the government for wartime purposes.  
Date: 1941 -
- [Melrose Training Farm for Boys \(1938 - 1957\)](#)

Some residents of Melrose Training Farm were transferred to Burwood when Melrose was closed in August 1957.

### Resources

- Davis, Hector, [Submission no 133 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 20 July 2003
- Name withheld, [Submission no 465 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Duff, G.B., *Social work of the Church: child rescue agencies of Melbourne*, The Spectator, 23 June 1899
- *Annual report [Burwood Boys' Home]*, 1896 - 1975
- Burwood Boys' Home, [Constitution and By-Laws](#), 1966
- Breen Elva, *Burwood Boys' Home Has Family Spirit*, The Sun News-Pictorial, 25 June 1948
- Turner, Laurence, [Victoria's Unwanted Children - 6: Willing Hearts Handicapped by Lack of Cash](#), The Herald, 31 October 1952

- [Burwood Boys'/Children's Home \(1895-1986\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Burwood Boys' Home

## Records

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For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

### Records

- [bestchance Child Family Care Records \(1895? - current\)](#)
  - ['Closed' Agency and General Correspondence Files \[Charities Board of Victoria\] \(1923 - 1983\)](#)
  - [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
  - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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